

10 Southwell Gardens
London SW

9 June 1888

My dear Mr Watson

I take the liberty of enclosing to you a letter for Mr Pringle who is I suppose at present in Mexico. The letter contains a cheque and as it is possible that you may be remitting money to him I leave the letter open so that if you see fit you can have the cheque (made payable to bearer) cashed at a Boston bank - and take cognizance of the contents of my letter - I lately returned from Teneriffe having gone there in January to get rid of an obstinate cough which troubled me during the winter and at the same time to see something of the vegetation of that very interesting island.

On my return I found Mr Pringle's letter and very lately received the box containing his collections of

last year - They are as usual excellent well selected & well prepared and I think him quite justified in increasing the price as he has done but I have told him of the unreasonable charge for carriage -

No doubt your mind is occupied with the question of completing the great work of the Flora of the United States which was the main object of Asa Gray's life - You have now so many good botanists in America that if they would undertake special families - such as Gramineae & Cyperaceae the work could be completed within a moderately short time - Hooker is working manfully at the completion of the Flora of British India and he is so well that I look forward to his doing other good work when that is

completed - I have had a very interesting set of Chilean plants - 1300 to 1400 species including a good many that have been distinguished on slight grounds by R. A. Philippi who is still active - It strikes that in some families especially Gramineae & Cyperaceae there are more forms common to North & South America than has been generally supposed, & especially in regard to the plants of the S.W. region of the U. States, it would be desirable to compare carefully with the species described from Chili & Argentaria -

I suppose that you often see poor Mrs Asa Gray - Pray give her the affectionate remembrances of myself & my wife - Every day makes the sense of the loss of that admirable man more acutely felt - first by those who had the good fortune to count him as a friend and next by every naturalist in the civilized world

Believe me very sincerely yours

John Ball